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that, if it be reserved, the ryots would be put to very gr difficulties. A good portion of the Velimala came un the notified limits, and what was excluded was not us to the ryots, as that area consisted only of scrub grass. T Member therefore requested that the notification propos to constitute Velimala into a Reserved Forest might cancelled.

Dewan's reply.—I shall give the matter my careful co sideration.

14. *Reservation of grazing grounds.*

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Agasteeswara Taluk) said that, of the whole extent of Nanjinad, includi the Thovala and Agasteeswaram taluks, one-third was *Nan* land and the rest *Punja*. Without cattle, cultivation w impossible, and grazing grounds were an imperative nece sity for cattle. Almost all the convenient areas in Nanj nad had been reserved by the Forest Department or s apart for salt manufacture. The result was that the pric of agricultural requisites, such as manure, ploughs & had considerably increased. The question of providin grazing grounds had been brought before the Assembly previous years, and the Government had promised to tal the needful action. But, so far, no land was set apart fo the purpose. The Member therefore prayed that a Com mittee be appointed, consisting of the Dewan Peishkar c Padmanabhapuram, the Director of Agriculture, the Divi sional Forest Officer, the Excise Inspector, and not less tha four of the leading ryots, to enquire into the extent of th cultivation, the number of cattle, and the area of pastur grounds required in the two taluks, and submit their report and the Government should set apart the lands recommended by such Committee for grazing purposes with the leas possible delay.

Mr. A. M. Kumara Pillai (Member, Agasteeswaram Taluk) said that he fully supported the views of Mr. Siva thanu Pillai. Before the completion of the Kodayar Irriga tion Works, the ryots had sufficient convenience for feeding their cattle. About 13,000 acres of land had been available for grazing purposes. After the works were completed, every acre of garden land was being converted into wet land, and the ryots of the Southern Division felt the difficulty so much during the year that all the Members from the south ern taluks were asked by the people to take up the subject and bring the same most prominently to the notice of the Government. There were several tank-beds available and these were being rapidly sold away. When cultivation was extending so rapidly, if the Government should permit the

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sale of even the available ground in the tank-beds indiscriminately, the result would be the total destruction of all cattle in the taluk. He therefore requested that the Dewan Peishkar of Padmanabhapuram and the Director of Agriculture might be asked to select the useful among the tank-beds proposed for sale, in consultation with the leading ryots of the taluks, for reservation as grazing grounds, and that steps be taken thereafter to sell the remaining tank-beds. The initiative, he said, had to be taken by the Government in the matter.

The Member also suggested that the Director might be asked to instruct the ryots how to cultivate fodder crops for cattle and he added that the ryots would be prepared to follow his suggestions.

Mr. V. Sankaranarayana Iyer, B. A., B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Nagercoil) requested that some area of land close to the town of Nagercoil be reserved for cattle to stand on. There was at present no such ground either in the town or near it. At least, 4 or 5 acres were necessary, and that was all that he asked for. He requested early action in the matter.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

Extension of some of the provisions of the Grazing Rules obtaining in the High Ranges to the Kaldurutty, Ponmudi and Ashamboo Hills.

Mr. D. G. Cameron (Member, South Travancore Planters' Association) said that the question came to be brought up at the Assembly, because several of the Planters wished to introduce foreign cattle for the purpose of manure and for clearing their properties. An invidious distinction was shown in the case of the owners of properties in the Northern Districts in permitting them to graze 500 head of cattle free for each estate. The Planters thought that, if those Rules were extended to the Kaldurutty, Ponmudi and Ashamboo Hills, it would be a convenience to them.

Dewan's reply.—There are at present two sets of Rules—one passed under date the 12th April 1909 for regulating the grazing of cattle on the Cardamom, Peermade, Mlappara and the Anjanad Hills, and the other passed under date the 20th May 1908 which apply to the grazing of cattle in Reserved Forests and Plantations. The privilege referred to by the Member exists only in the former rules. I shall enquire into the reasons for this distinction and see if anything should be done. The question of consolidating the two sets of Rules and re-issuing them is now engaging the consideration of the Government.

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